

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A mathematical expression recognizing device comprising:

5 a character recognition unit configured to recognize characters in a document image containing a text and a mathematical expression;

10 a first dictionary configured to store a pair of evaluation scores for each type of word that can be identified by means of normal expression, the score showing the possibility of belonging to the text and that of belonging to the mathematical expression;

15 an evaluation unit configured to obtain the evaluation scores showing the possibility of belonging to the text and that of belonging to the mathematical expression for each of the words included in the characters recognized by the character recognition unit with reference to the first dictionary; and

20 a mathematical expression detecting unit configured to search for an optimal path connecting words by selecting one of the text and the mathematical expression based on a formative grammar and the evaluation scores showing the possibility of belonging to the text and that of belonging to the mathematical expression for each of the words, thereby detecting
25 characters belonging to the mathematical expression.

2. The device according to claim 1, wherein said mathematical expression detection unit comprises:

a second dictionary configured to store
a connectable a part of speech and mathematical
expression as the formative grammar; and

5 a search unit configured to search for a path
connecting the words and showing the largest evaluation
score given to the word as the mathematical expression
or the text out of all possible inter-word connection
paths as the optimal path, by selecting either the
text or mathematical expression for each word according
10 to the part of speech of the word and the formative
grammar read out from said second dictionary.

3. The device according to claim 1, further
comprising:

15 a memory configured to store a plurality of items
of sample information indicating a relation of a
normalization size and a center position between each
pair of consecutively arranged characters in terms of
the types of the characters including a horizontal
positional relationship, character/subscript relation-
20 ship and character/superscript relationship; and

a determination unit configured to calculate
the relation of the normalization size and the center
position between each pair of consecutively arranged
characters included in the mathematical expression
25 region and obtain link candidates for the horizontal
positional relationship, the character/subscript
relationship and the character/superscript relationship

based on the calculated relation of the normalization size and the center position and the sample information corresponding to the calculated relation of the types of the two consecutively arranged characters.

5 4. The device according to claim 3, further comprising:

 a memory configured to storing a global evaluation condition for determined based on the distribution of the heights of the characters contained in said mathematical expression region; and

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 a unit for configured to search for an optimal path for connecting the characters in each of said mathematical expression regions without contradiction, select an inter-character structure candidate having

15 a horizontal positional relationship, a character/subscript relationship or a character/superscript relationship for each pair of consecutively arranged characters based on said global evaluation condition and said link candidates, and recognize the horizontal

20 positional relationship, the character/subscript relationship or the character/superscript relationship of said pair of consecutively arranged characters based on the result of the search operation.

 5. The device according to claim 4, wherein said

25 global evaluation condition comprises at least one of the relationship of the height of a character contained in a subscript region and the height of each of other

characters, the positional relationship between a base line and a character contained in the subscript region and the dispersion of heights among characters located on the same horizontal level.

5 6. The device according to claim 3, further comprising:

10 a decomposing unit configured to decompose each mathematical expression detected by said mathematical expression detection unit into components and remove at least left indexes, accent marks, root signs, and dots from each component, and wherein said determination unit obtains link candidates for the components from which the left indexes, accent marks, root signs, or dots is removed.

15 7. A mathematical expression recognizing device comprising:

 a character recognition unit configured to recognize characters in a document image containing a text and a mathematical expression;

20 a detecting unit configured to detect a mathematical expression region from the characters recognized by the character recognition unit:

 a memory configured to store a plurality of items of sample information indicating a relation of a normalization size and a center position between each pair of consecutively arranged characters in terms of the types of the characters including a horizontal

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positional relationship, character/subscript relationship and character/superscript relationship; and

a unit configured to calculate the relation of the normalization size and the center position between each pair of consecutively arranged characters included in the mathematical expression region and obtain link candidates for the horizontal positional relationship, the character/subscript relationship and the character/superscript relationship based on the calculated relation of the normalization size and the center position and the sample information corresponding to the calculated relation of the types of the two consecutively arranged characters.

8. A mathematical expression recognizing device comprising:

a character recognition unit configured to recognize characters in a document image containing a text and a mathematical expression;

a detecting unit configured to detect a mathematical expression region from the characters recognized by the character recognition unit;

a memory configured to store a plurality of items of sample information indicating a relation of a normalization size and a center position between each pair of consecutively arranged characters in terms of the types of the characters including a horizontal positional relationship, character/subscript

relationship and character/superscript relationship;

a unit configured to calculate the relation of the normalization size and the center position between each pair of consecutively arranged characters included in the mathematical expression region and obtain link candidates for the horizontal positional relationship, the character/subscript relationship and the character/superscript relationship based on the calculated relation of the normalization size and the center position and the sample information corresponding to the calculated relation of the types of the two consecutively arranged characters; and

a unit configured to search for an optimal path for connecting the characters in each of said mathematical expression regions without contradiction, select an inter-character structure candidate having a horizontal positional relationship, a character/subscript relationship or a character/superscript relationship for each pair of consecutively arranged characters based on said global evaluation condition and said link candidates, and recognize the horizontal positional relationship, the character/subscript relationship or the character/superscript relationship of said pair of consecutively arranged characters based on the result of the search operation.

9. A mathematical expression recognizing method comprising:

recognizing characters in a document image
containing a text and a mathematical expression;

referring to a first dictionary which stores a
pair of evaluation scores for each type of word that
5 can be identified by means of normal expression, the
score showing the possibility of belonging to the text
and that of belonging to the mathematical expression to
obtain the evaluation scores showing the possibility of
belonging to the text and that of belonging to the
10 mathematical expression for each of the words included
in the characters recognized by the character; and

searching for an optimal path connecting words
by selecting one of the text and the mathematical
expression based on a formative grammar and the
15 evaluation scores showing the possibility of belonging
to the text and that of belonging to the mathematical
expression for each of the words, thereby detecting
characters belonging to the mathematical expression.

10. A mathematical expression recognizing method
20 comprising:

recognizing characters in a document image
containing a text and a mathematical expression;

detecting a mathematical expression region from
the recognized characters;

25 referring to a memory which stores a plurality of
items of sample information indicating a relation of
a normalization size and a center position between each

pair of consecutively arranged characters in terms of
the types of the characters including a horizontal
positional relationship, character/subscript
relationship and character/superscript relationship;
5 and

calculating the relation of the normalization
size and the center position between each pair of
consecutively arranged characters included in the
mathematical expression region and obtain link
10 candidates for the horizontal positional relationship,
the character/subscript relationship and the character/
superscript relationship based on the calculated
relation of the normalization size and the center
position and the sample information corresponding to
15 the calculated relation of the types of the two
consecutively arranged characters.

11. A mathematical expression recognizing method
comprising:

recognizing characters in a document image
20 containing a text and a mathematical expression;

detecting a mathematical expression region from
the recognized characters;

referring to a memory which stores a plurality of
items of sample information indicating a relation of
25 a normalization size and a center position between each
pair of consecutively arranged characters in terms of
the types of the characters including a horizontal

positional relationship, character/subscript
relationship and character/superscript relationship;

calculating the relation of the normalization size
and the center position between each pair of
5 consecutively arranged characters included in the
mathematical expression region and obtain link
candidates for the horizontal positional relationship,
the character/subscript relationship and the character/
superscript relationship based on the calculated
10 relation of the normalization size and the center
position and the sample information corresponding to
the calculated relation of the types of the two
consecutively arranged characters; and

searching for an optimal path for connecting the
15 characters in each of said mathematical expression
regions without contradiction, selecting an inter-
character structure candidate having a horizontal
positional relationship, a character/subscript
relationship or a character/superscript relationship
20 for each pair of consecutively arranged characters
based on said global evaluation condition and said link
candidates, and recognizing the horizontal positional
relationship, the character/subscript relationship or
the character/superscript relationship of said pair of
25 consecutively arranged characters based on the result
of the search operation.

12. A character recognizing device for reading

a document including a mathematical expression
and recognizing respectively a text region and
a mathematical expression region, comprising:

5 a character recognition unit configured to
recognize the document image including the mathematical
expression;

10 a first dictionary configured to store a pair of
evaluation scores for each type of word that can be
identified by means of normal expression, the score
showing the possibility of belonging to the text and
that of belonging to the mathematical expression; and

15 an evaluation unit configured to obtain the
evaluation scores showing the possibility of belonging
to the text and that of belonging to the mathematical
expression for each of the words included in the
characters recognized by the character recognition
unit with reference to the first dictionary, search for
an optimal path connecting words by selecting one of
the text and the mathematical expression based on
20 a formative grammar and the evaluation scores showing
the possibility of belonging to the text and that of
belonging to the mathematical expression for each of
the words, thereby discriminating between the text and
the mathematical expression.

25 13. A character recognizing device for reading
a document including a mathematical expression
and recognizing respectively a text region and

a mathematical expression region, comprising:

a character recognition unit configured to recognize the document image including the mathematical expression;

5 a detecting unit configured to detect a mathematical expression region from the characters recognized by the character recognition unit;

10 a memory configured to store a plurality of items of sample information indicating a relation of a normalization size and a center position between each pair of consecutively arranged characters in terms of the types of the characters including a horizontal positional relationship, character/subscript relationship and character/superscript relationship; and

15 a unit configured to calculate the relation of the normalization size and the center position between each pair of consecutively arranged characters included in the mathematical expression region and obtain link candidates for the horizontal positional relationship, 20 the character/subscript relationship and the character/superscript relationship based on the calculated relation of the normalization size and the center position and the sample information corresponding to the calculated relation of the types of the two 25 consecutively arranged characters, thereby recognizing a mathematical expression.

14. A mathematical expression recognizing device

comprising:

a character recognizing unit configured to recognize characters in a document image containing a mathematical expression;

5 a unit configured to detect a mathematical expression region from the outcome of character recognition obtained by said character recognizing means;

10 a unit configured to store a plurality of pieces of sample information on the inter-character relationship of the sizes of normalization and that of the center positions of each pair of consecutively arranged characters in terms of the types of the characters and positional relationships of horizontal positional
15 relationship, an inter-character relationship determining unit configured to computationally determining the relationship of the sizes of normalization and that of the center positions of each of all the pairs of consecutively arranged characters
20 in a mathematical expression region and obtain link candidates as combinations of inter-character structure candidates showing the respective possibilities of having a horizontal positional relationship, a character/subscript relationship or a character/
25 superscript relationship based on the result of computation and the sample information and their respective evaluation scores;

a unit configured to store a global evaluation condition based on the distribution of the heights of the characters contained in said mathematical expression regions; and

5 a unit configured to search for an optimal path for connecting the characters in each of said mathematical expression regions without contradiction, select an inter-character structure candidate having a horizontal positional relationship, a character/
10 subscript relationship or a character/superscript relationship for each pair of consecutively arranged characters, and recognize the horizontal positional relationship, the character/subscript relationship or the character/superscript relationship of said pair of
15 consecutively arranged characters based on the result of the search operation.

15. A character recognizing method for reading a document including a mathematical expression and recognizing respectively a text region and
20 a mathematical expression region, comprising:

recognizing the document image including the mathematical expression;

referring to a first dictionary which stores a pair of evaluation scores for each type of word that
25 can be identified by means of normal expression, the score showing the possibility of belonging to the text and that of belonging to the mathematical expression;

and

obtaining the evaluation scores showing the possibility of belonging to the text and that of belonging to the mathematical expression for each of the words included in the characters recognized by the character recognition unit with reference to the first dictionary, searching for an optimal path connecting words by selecting one of the text and the mathematical expression based on a formative grammar and the evaluation scores showing the possibility of belonging to the text and that of belonging to the mathematical expression for each of the words, thereby discriminating between the text and the mathematical expression.

16. A character recognizing method for reading a document including a mathematical expression and recognizing respectively a text region and a mathematical expression region, comprising:

recognizing the document image including the mathematical expression;

detecting a mathematical expression region from the characters recognized by the character recognition unit;

referring a memory which stores a plurality of items of sample information indicating a relation of a normalization size and a center position between each pair of consecutively arranged characters in terms of the types of the characters including a horizontal

positional relationship, character/subscript relationship and character/superscript relationship; and

calculating the relation of the normalization size and the center position between each pair of consecutively arranged characters included in the mathematical expression region and obtain link candidates for the horizontal positional relationship, the character/subscript relationship and the character/superscript relationship based on the calculated relation of the normalization size and the center position and the sample information corresponding to the calculated relation of the types of the two consecutively arranged characters, thereby recognizing a mathematical expression.

17. A mathematical expression recognizing method comprising:

recognizing characters in a document image containing a mathematical expression;

detecting a mathematical expression region from the outcome of character recognition obtained by said character recognizing means;

referring to a memory which stores pieces of sample information on the inter-character relationship of the sizes of normalization and that of the center positions of each pair of consecutively arranged characters in terms of the types of the characters and positional relationships of horizontal positional

relationship, an inter-character relationship
determining unit configured to computationally
determining the relationship of the sizes of
normalization and that of the center positions of each
5 of all the pairs of consecutively arranged characters
in a mathematical expression region and obtaining link
candidates as combinations of inter-character structure
candidates showing the respective possibilities
of having a horizontal positional relationship,
10 a character/subscript relationship or a character/
superscript relationship based on the result of
computation and the sample information and their
respective evaluation scores;

referring to a memory which stores a global
15 evaluation condition based on the distribution of
the heights of the characters contained in said
mathematical expression regions; and

searching for an optimal path for connecting the
characters in each of said mathematical expression
20 regions without contradiction, selecting an inter-
character structure candidate having a horizontal
positional relationship, a character/subscript
relationship or a character/superscript relationship
for each pair of consecutively arranged characters,
25 and recognizing the horizontal positional relationship,
the character/subscript relationship or the character/
superscript relationship of said pair of consecutively

